

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT  
U.S. Appln. Based on PCT/FR99/00692

Claim 21: lines 1-2, change "claims 16 to 20, characterised in that" to --claim 16,  
wherein--.

Claim 22: lines 1-2, change "any one of claims 18 to 21, characterised in that" to --  
claim 18, wherein--.

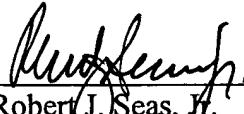
Claim 23: lines 1-2, change "any one of claims 16 to 20, characterised in that" to --  
claim 16, wherein--.

Claim 24: lines 1-2, change 'any one of claims 16 to 20, characterised in that" to --  
claim 16, wherein--.

**REMARKS**

The foregoing amendments are made in order to remove multiple dependencies and avoid  
the Government surcharge. Entry and consideration of this Amendment is respectfully  
requested.

Respectfully submitted,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Robert J. Seas, Jr.  
Registration No. 21,092

SUGHRUE, MION, ZINN,  
MACPEAK & SEAS, PLLC  
2100 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20037-3213  
Telephone: (202) 293-7060  
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

Date: September 26, 2000